

**Independent media against hate  
speech**



The last month of the year 2021 brought excellent news for journalism worldwide. The Nobel Peace Prize awarded two journalists for the first

time in history. Maria Ressa from Phillipines and Dmitry Muratov from Russia.

An award is a powerful act of support of independent media and a moment of inspiration for all the journalists globally who fight for the same goals and share the same values.

I strongly believe that the Community media will have a huge part in the fight against hate speech and extremists in the world.

Being a journalist without any censorship gives you the power to confront those who hold power structures in the world. It allows you to keep an eye on the politicians who choose the path of dictatorship or tyranny while killing citizens and confiscating their liberties.

Maria Ressa said: "The mission of journalism has never been as important as it's today"

It was a much-needed wind in the wings for us journalists. Personally, it inspired and motivated me to continue to defend the freedom of expression and carry on delivering the voice of the people without fear.



Lina Chawaf

CMFE

President of the board

## CMFE Newsletters

[Past newsletters](#)

# Strengthening an enabling environment

## CoE Resolutions adopted at the 2021 Ministerial Conference on Media and Information Society



In June 2021, CMFE was part of the **World Café on Community Media and Media Literacy** at the Council of Europe Ministerial Conference on Media and Information Society

["Artificial intelligence – Intelligent politics Challenges and opportunities for media and democracy"](#).

**Two of the important documents adopted at the Ministerial Conference endorse the role of community media in a pluralistic media landscape:**

- [\*\*Resolution on the changing media and information environment\*\*](#) in paragraph 8 states that “We emphasise the crucial role of public service media, in many countries a trusted and reliable source of information, and that of not-for-profit community media.” and then recommends to the CoE to “Promote exchanges of information concerning regulatory, co-regulatory and self-regulatory initiatives in member States for the survival of an independent and pluralistic media sector, including local and community media, as well as to promote a wide availability of public interest content and minimise the risks related to disinformation, misinformation and mal-information.”
- [\*\*Resolution on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on freedom of expression\*\*](#) in paragraph 10 states that “Not-for-profit community media with their local and multilingual sources of information are another key resource for effective crisis response, as they can engage audiences that other media may not be able to reach.” and then states that “We resolve to address the challenges of the media market, including for public service media and community media, in a systematic manner and in

close cooperation with media representatives and journalist associations, and to ensure media independence and sustainability.”

## Improving the Visibility of CM

# OSCE event on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Migrants and Refugees



## Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Migrants and Refugees

ODIHR, OSCE RFoM, OSCE Secretariat & UNHCR webinar  
with the support of the 2021 Swedish OSCE Chairpersonship

17 DECEMBER  
10:00 - 13:00 CET



osce

osce  
The Representative on  
Freedom of the Media



On December 17, 2021 Nadia Bellardi represented CMFE at the OSCE-wide event on **Combating Intolerance & Discrimination against Migrants & Refugees**. Organized on the occasion of the International Migrants Day, the event was the fourth and closing meeting in a series of webinars on migration-related issues co-organised by the OSCE Secretariat and institutions and UNHCR in 2021. The issues discussed in previous events included the shaping of positive public perceptions and attitudes towards migrants and refugees in host societies, including through social media, and access to and use of media by refugees and migrants.

Nadia spoke about access to and use of media by refugees and migrants, emphasizing the role and potential of community media and showing the [trailer](#) from the [CMMA](#) Conference on Migration and Media Awareness by Refugee Radio Network.

More information about the OSCE event is available [here](#) and on [YouTube](#).



Article by Birgitte Jalov

## Does knowing you mean trusting you?



fome21 - <https://fome.info/>

**Believe it or not! Enquiries  
about TRUST in media(assistance)**  
November 18-19, 2021

*For online registration (free of charge) see  
<https://fome.info/>*

*Don't miss the panel on Friday, 10:30 hrs*

**Does knowing you mean trusting you?  
Exploring audience perception of local media**

with Prof. Vinod Pavarala (UNESCO Chair for  
Community Media, Tom Mboya (KCOMNET),  
Vivienne Marara (ZACRAS), Kwabena Eddie  
Mankata and Aseye Tamakloe  
(Filmmakers/Trainers from Ghana)  
Moderation: Birgitte Jallov, Empowerhouse

Research has over the past 20 years, time and again, documented the power of community media – especially community radio – as a strong community owned platform. A different kind of community development and empowerment happens, when the community itself is in the driver's seat bringing up issues of community relevance – and effectively searching for ways of addressing them. In search of the answer as to WHY this happens, an important component of the final, distilled answers have been that the distinguishing component emerging was: **TRUST**.

During the annual Symposium of the German Media Development Forum (FoME) taking place in Berlin November 2021, TRUST in the Media was the overall thematic focus. One of the panels focused on local – and community – media and Birgitte Jallov, the then President of Community Media Forum Europe (CMFE), had been asked to moderate the panel, engaging three community media colleagues and two (participatory) film makers to address the issue.

The local media panel took place on day 2 of the forum, and it had been noteworthy, how many of the panels of Day 1 pointed to local media as an answer to the global crisis around trust – and trustworthiness – of the media in general.

The first part of the panel focused on community radio, with Prof. Vinod Pavarala, UNESCO Chair on Community Media at the University of

Hyderabad, India, delivering the keynote addressing the theme, with follow-up comments and case examples delivered by Vivienne Marara, the then Director of ZACRAS, Zimbabwe's Association of Community Radio and Tom Mboya, Coordinator of KCOMNET, the Kenyan Community Radio Network.

In the second part of the panel: 'Talk back to the screen!' the Ghanaian filmmakers and activists Kwabena Eddie Mankata and Aseye Tamakloe shared their experience with the impact of direct audience interaction at mobile cinema screenings, local film festivals and participatory film making - and the doubts or trust they encountered when presenting fictional or documentary films.

### **We are all looking to local media, this is where trust happens!**

The representative of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs opened the Symposium on day 1 stressing that "we will look, increasingly, to local media, as this is the place where trust happens" and as several other speakers underscored the importance of trust in uncertain times and the importance of **proximity** for that, the stage was set for our panel about **local media and trust**.

But of course it is not as simple as that. Professor Pavarala charted the territory, highlighting the inner connection between community and trust. That all local media are not trusted media, and that not all media called 'community' are, de-facto, owned by the community. Core principles highlighted by him and by the colleagues from Zimbabwe and Kenya pointed towards where to find the potential for actual trust. Recognition that community radio is about the process much more than the product was one important aspect, as well as the urgent need to return to the non-negotiables: participation, community ownership and management, community content production and content and the use of local languages, the local culture and thereby strengthen the identity. Without this, it may be a local radio, but you will not – or at least usually not – see trust emerge around the station.

### **Discovering new realities through the trust around film**

Similarly, the two film makers shared the 'magic' that they experienced, working audio-visually with communities. Aseye Tamakloe shared examples of how 'a third space' opens during some of the film festivals she curates – especial the African women's film festival. The festival space gives people a rare opportunity to open up and have conversations that they would not normally have – and normally not in a public space. The intimacy of the festival creates a space with a special trust – allowing participants to share very personal stories and to reconsider themselves and their views and norms.

Kwabene Mankata who has been experimenting with both producing film about themes of importance to a local community, but also taken it a step further, training youths to do the films about their own reality themselves. Kwabene's experience matched fully what was shared by our community radio colleagues:

the impact and the trust generated by the films genuinely local, community-produced, were taken in more immediately. The audience could sense the difference and would be much more ready to trust the message of a film.

**So, the result emerging from the thoughtful interventions was clear:** Local does not mean trusted by definition. Local is not, in itself, a quick fix that means that trust will be generated, but it carries the potential of a different level of insightful and change-ready communication. And when the local communities are the producers, who set their own agenda, then the listeners, the viewers, the audiences know. And trust is a core result.

So, if it is trust we want to have, we need the community to hold the microphone and through that also hold the power and the rights to address challenges and thereby facilitate the desired local change.

## Building inclusion through the experience of beauty (MIGRATIONS I MEDIATIONS)

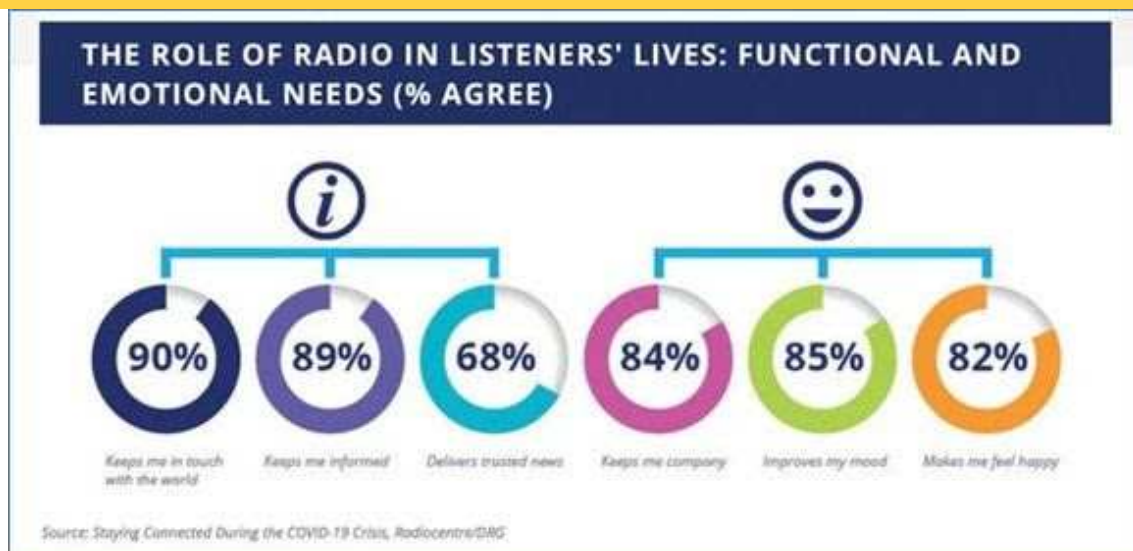
The poster features a white background with green and blue accents. At the top left, it reads 'NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS' and 'NEB UNIVERSITÀ CATTOLICA' in green, with the hashtag '#NEBBuildsCommunityAesthetics!' below. The main title 'Building inclusion through the experience of beauty' is in a large green font, followed by the date 'Wednesday 24 November, 2.30 pm' and the location 'Sala Negri da Oleggio (Largo Gemelli, 1 - Milano)'. Below this, it says 'LIVE sui social @Unicatt'. On the right side, there is a collage of small images showing diverse people and scenes, interspersed with solid colored squares in shades of green and blue. At the bottom left, there is a logo for 'New European Bauhaus' with the tagline 'beautiful | sustainable | together' and the European Union flag. In the center bottom, there is a logo for '1921-2021' and the 'UNIVERSITÀ CATTOLICA del Sacro Cuore' logo.

On November 24, 2021 Nadia Bellardi of the CMFE expert group took part in the [Multipolar Conversation on Building inclusion through the experience of beauty](#) organised by the Department of Communication Sciences and Performing Arts of Università Cattolica Milano in the context of the [New European Bauhaus](#) project. Nadia spoke about how participatory and collaborative media can question dominant policies of social inclusion, with a focus on community media. In her presentation she included statements by

experts and journalists representing contemporary European societies and media, recorded during recent events and broadcasts, such as the CMMA, the New Neighbours final conference and also the GTTO production on Nyimas Bantaba.

The recording of the event is available [here](#).

## Radio's role during the COVID crisis



The RED TECH newsletter December 2021 reports on the role of radio – and especially local radio – has had during the Covid crisis: a health crisis, which has also resulted in both different kinds of social and information crisis. Radio has to many of the listeners interviewed in UK resulting in the percentages shown in the image here, been found to be a positive answer to quite a few of those crisis situations.

RED TECH stresses that “While the last months have been nothing short of tragic, COVID has been positive for the radio sector. It has reminded everyone, including those excited by new audio options, just how important nationally and locally based radio was in targeting informational and psychological needs during lockdown. A high proportion of listeners saw it as a tool to stay in touch, while its capacity to keep people company and improve mood cannot be overestimated. As such, in difficult times, people can consciously appreciate the benefits it can provide.”

[Read more](#)

**Action for Coop. and Change**



## A special GTTO broadcast about antisemitism, conspiracy theories, and their impact on Jewish communities in Britain



In a special production for *Get The Trolls Out!*, community media podcasters Lydia El Khouri of Radio Verulam and Chiara Muzzi of Source FM discuss the *Get The Trolls Out!* new [report](#) on conspiracy ideologies and anti-Jewish hatred on the major social media platforms.

Produced by the Media Diversity Institute as part of *Get The Trolls Out!* and in collaboration with its partners Amadeu Antonio Stiftung, Center for Independent Journalism, European Network on Religion and Belief, European Union of Jewish Students, Karpos, LICRA and 'NEVER AGAIN' Association, the research highlights the concerning presence of antisemitism within the anti-vaccine discourse on Facebook and Twitter.

[More info](#)

## Radio UWM FM discusses issues of religious hatred and intolerance in the Polish media



In November, the radio show *Mediofon* on UWM FM dedicated a podcast to the discussion of the problem of religious hatred and intolerance in the Polish media.

*Mediofon* is a radio show dedicated to media topics produced by Associate Professor Urszula Doliwa and Assistant Professor Marta Więckiewicz-Archacka from the Institute of Journalism and Social Communication, University of Warmia and Mazury, in Olsztyn, Poland. It is broadcast on the campus radio [UWM FM](#) – a non-commercial radio station broadcasting on 95.9 FM in Olsztyn and via web. The radio is committed to local cultural news, the student and academic world, musical discoveries and audio documentaries.

[More info](#)

**Stimmen ohne Stimmrecht**

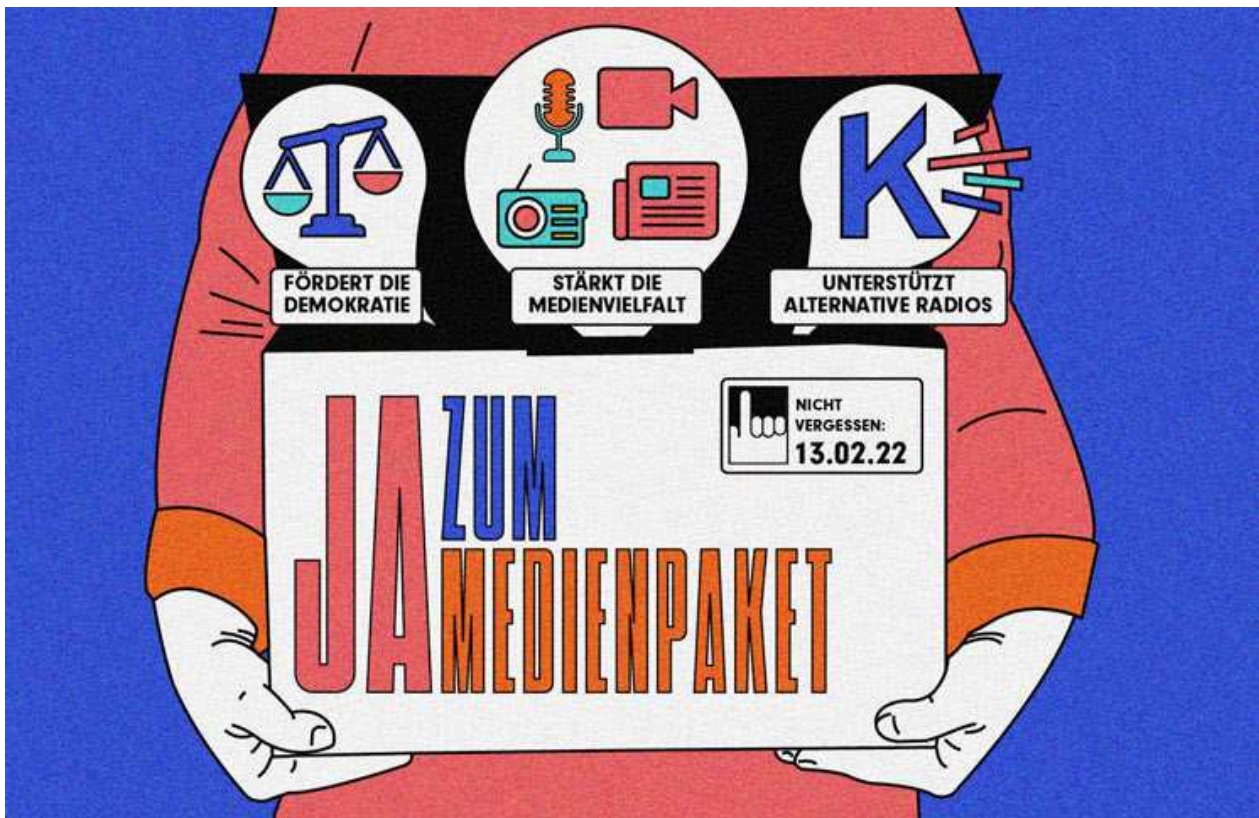


If you speak German or French, you might like to listen to this production from Radio LoRa in Zurich, where migrant women tell their own stories of voicelessness pre- and mid-pandemic. The production follows up on the book *Derrière les murs* by the Marche Mondiale des Femmes and was supported by the [Swiss Radio and Culture Foundation](#).

On SoundCloud: [https://soundcloud.com/radio\\_lora/sets/stimmen-ohne-stimmrecht](https://soundcloud.com/radio_lora/sets/stimmen-ohne-stimmrecht)

## Uncertain future for media funding in Switzerland





Swiss community radios will be holding their breath until mid-February.

On 13 February 2022, the Swiss electorate will vote on the media package. What goes unnoticed in most articles and contributions is that UNIKOM community radios are also affected, along with all other private radio and TV stations.

In addition to the indirect press subsidy and the subsidy for online media, on 13 February, a decision will also be taken on whether the media licence fee for private radio and TV broadcasters will be increased. So far, 94% of the contribution goes to the public service media and 6% to private and community broadcasters such as Kanal K in Aarau, Radio Stadtfilter in Winterthur), RaBe in Bern, LoRa in Zurich and 3FACH in Lucerne. With a Yes vote next February, the share will be increased to 8%. If it is rejected, the share for the private and community broadcasters may even be reduced.

More information (in German) [here](#).

**Specific Methodologies and Resources  
for Radio Trainers – The SMART  
programme**



## **Specific Methodologies And Resources for Radio Trainers**

SMART is an online tool addressed to radio trainers in community media and offers selected and valid training exercises and methods even to specific target groups, when you want to create radio trainings. The website:

<https://smart.radiotraining.eu...> provides you with multiple tools both when you want to carry out 'Radio Training' with broadcasters, or when you want to 'Train a Trainer'. The website gives you a choice of six different languages: German, English, Basque, French, Hungarian and Spanish.

SMART was developed as a European collaboration project over a two-year period, ending at the end of 2021. The partners in the project were: Radioschule klipp+klang, Switzerland; COMMIT, the Community Media Institute for Further Education, Research and Consultancy, Austria; Antxeta Irratia, a Basque Community Radio; Civil Radio, Hungary; Near Media-Co-op, Ireland; Radio Corax, Germany; CMFE and AMARC-Europe.

### **Radio Training**

SMART gives you the opportunity to create radio workshops in the context of Community Media. SMART brings together exercises on all relevant areas of work in community media, which are also tailored to the individual needs of special target groups. This means that the exercises can also be used for radio training with people with visual impairments, learning difficulties and migrants.

### **Train a Trainer**

SMART 'Train a Trainer' offers two syllabi for train-the-trainer courses – an online course and an onsite course – to train the principles of learner-centred radio education. SMART Trainers builds on the SMART online tool, which brings together proven methods, activities, and materials for radio training, especially for specific target groups, and offers them for free use. SMART 'Train a Trainer' is further dedicated to enabling training in the non-formal education sector of community media.

In addition to the courses, SMART 'Train a Trainer' includes a tool for the assessment of the learning outcomes of the course participants and the certification of the participation in the courses.



**CMFE engages in collaboration around Media and Information Literacy:**

## **MILES – Documenting good practice concepts and methods MIL-training**

In the middle of last year, 2021, CMFE together with six other community media organisations in Europe started up a 2-year project, aimed at identifying, testing and documenting good practice concepts and methods, and helpful resources for Media and Information Literacy (MIL) trainings and develop applicable methods for evaluating these trainings.

This is important for community media in Europe due to the decisive changes in human communication processes and behaviour, as also recognized by global and European institutions, from UNESCO to the European Parliament and Commission. Media and Information Literacy aims to empower citizens by providing them with the competencies (knowledge and skills and attitude) necessary to engage with traditional media and new technologies, with a critical mind. For community media this is both important for the broadcasters and for their audiences – we as such both need to use MIL in our own practice and share the learning through our media.

The MILES project will share the good practice results online and as a publication in five languages to inspire colleagues in other community media to set up MIL-strategies.

**Media and Information Literacy (MIL)** is a “combination of knowledge, attitudes, skills, and practices required to access, analyse, evaluate, use, produce, and communicate information and knowledge in creative, legal and ethical ways that respect human rights”

(Moscow Declaration on Media and Information Literacy, 2012)

The six European Community Media entities engaging with CMFE in the MILES project are: Radio ARA, Luxembourg; Civil Rádió, Hungary; Teleduca. Educació i Comunicació, Spain; Bradford Community Broadcasting, UK; Radio Kärnan 99.2, Sweden; NEAR FM, Ireland.

All that you did not know you might be missing...

# **CLASSIFIEDS**

## Events

### Radiodays Europe 2022



Radiodays Europe 2022 announced

[Link](#)

## Calls

### The CIVIS Media Prize 2022



Prizes are awarded for television, radio and internet productions that address migration, integration, cultural diversity and – linked to this – social cohesion in Europe in an outstanding way.

[Link](#)

## NETWORK of radio documentary makers

Would you want to be a part of a

### **NETWORK of radio documentary makers?**

Near FM in Ireland are looking at developing a network of radio documentary makers within the community radio world, where we may collaborate, share tips, programming and possibly generate enough interest to apply for some European funding for further skills training and development and production.

If you are interested, write to Paul Loughran, production manager at NEAR FM: <[paul@near.ie](mailto:paul@near.ie)>

## Research Group on Community Media at Eötvös Loránd University

A forming research group is looking for members who are interested in taking part in research on community media. Gabriella Velics, - who is also a vice president of CMFE and responsible for Research, Education and Expert Group issues - has an idea to facilitate research on community media with launching a formal research group at her Institute.

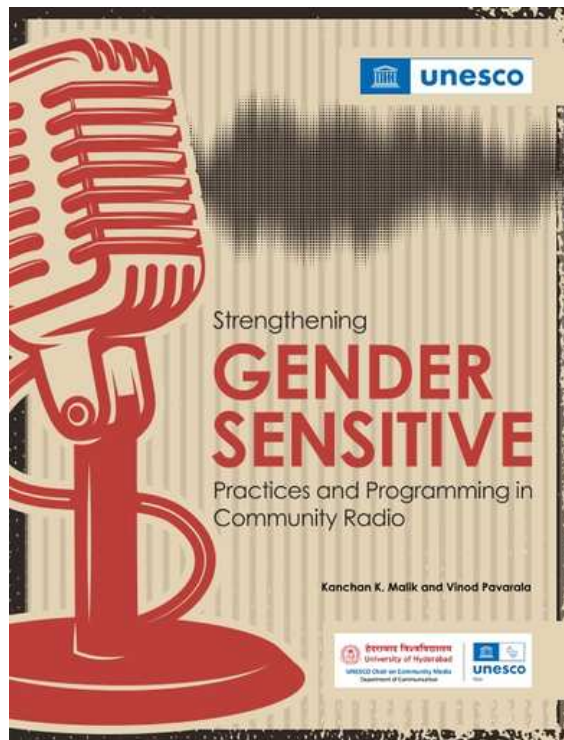
The Faculty of Education and Psychology (PPK) of the 375-year old Eötvös Loránd University in Hungary is one of the eight faculties presently. As our slogan says: „PPK, everything that is human” education and research here is a lot more than just gaining academic knowledge, it is a mission as well. The majority of Hungarian researchers of community media work for Eötvös Loránd University at different faculties, such as Faculty of Humanities, Faculty of Law and Faculty of Education and Psychology. As research groups are key elements of knowledge transfer and multiplication, the aim is to help collaboration of researchers on community media as many aspects as we can.

The call is open for academics, researchers, PhD students both on national and international level.

If you are interested to join, please send an e-mail with a short introduction to [velics.gabriella@ppk.elte.hu](mailto:velics.gabriella@ppk.elte.hu)

## Publications

**Strengthening gender sensitive practices  
and programming in community radio**



A new UNESCO publication by Prof. Pavarala (UNESCO Chair on Community Media) and Prof. Malik

[Link](#)

**eBook-Release: „Building a European Digital Public Space”**



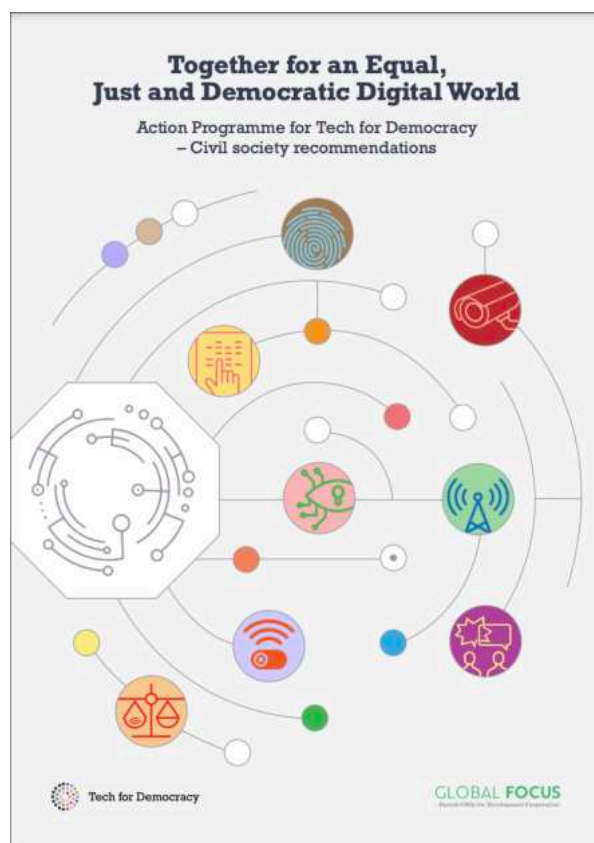


The disruptive transformation of the "public" through digitization has led to monopolizing structures on the Internet that make Europe dependent – both at an infrastructural level and politically – on non-European private and state players.

At the same time, these structures undermine our democratic order. This book shows how the current crisis could boost our chances of breaking new ground by establishing an independent European Digital Public Space. The contributors are academics, actors from public and non-commercial media, and long-time activists in the field of the Commons.

„Building a European Digital Public Space – Strategies for taking back control from Big Tech platforms” appeared on 16.11.2021 on iRights.media.

**Together for an Equal, Just and  
Democratic Digital World - Action  
Programme for Tech for Democracy –  
Civil society recommendations**



With the Action Programme for Tech for Democracy, civil society from across the world gives its recommendations for concrete actions to be taken by a broad range of stakeholders including governments, the private sector, multilateral institutions and civil society.

The Tech for Democracy initiative is initiated and funded by the Danish government to ensure that digital technologies enable, rather than oppose democracy and human rights.

The Tech for Democracy Pledge has been introduced by the Danish government, which outlines the principles and values important for Tech for Democracy to be signed by governments, the private sector and civil society.

The Action Programme dives deeper into the concrete actions that civil society recommend should be taken and is based on a global consultation with inputs from over 100 civil society organisations, experts, human rights defenders and academia from over 40 countries around the world.

[Get it here](#)

# Best practices of CR and SDGs – a handbook

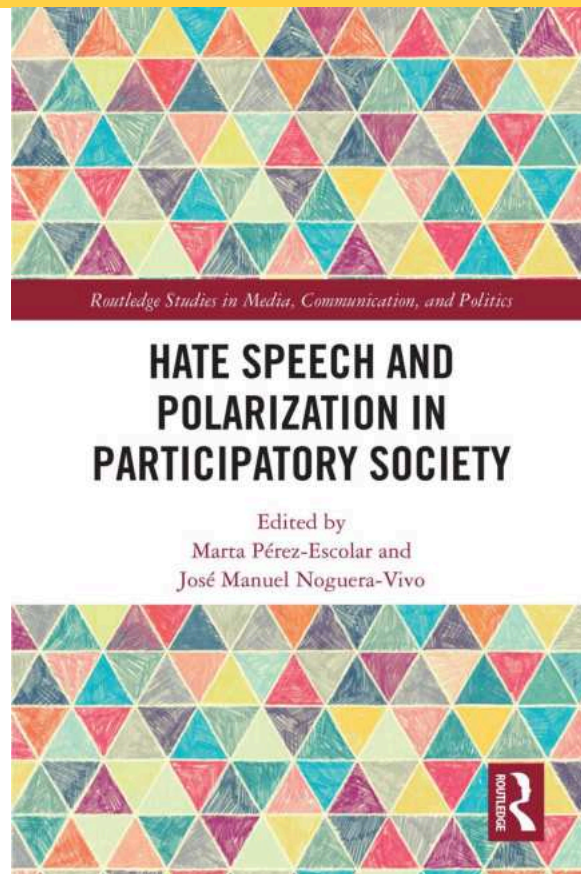


Through 96 stories [from Bangladesh, India and Nepal] included in the compilation capture the various ways in which the diverse sector is identifying, prioritizing, and addressing concerns in the community's visa-vis the SDGs. These stories describe the creative ways in which content has been developed by using the folk format, engaging the community through discussions, games, and cultural events, and innovative outreach activities.

D. Rukmini Vemraju (comp.): **Best practices of community radio and Sustainable Development Goals: a handbook**. New Delhi: Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA); UNESCO, 2021, 429 p.

[Read more](#)

# Hate speech and polarisation in participatory society – how do we discuss it, fight it?



The book brings together an international team of experts, enabling a broad, multidisciplinary approach that examines hate speech, dislike, polarization, and enclave deliberation as cross axes that influence offline and digital conversations. The diverse case studies herein offer insights into international news media, television drama and social media in a range of contexts, suggesting an academic frame of reference for examining this emerging phenomenon within the field of communication studies.

Marta Pérez-Escolar, José Manuel Noguera-Vivo (eds.): Hate speech and polarization in participatory society. Abingdon; New York: Routledge, 2022, xxiv, 252 p.

[Read more](#)

# Journalists too - women journalists speak out



On the **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25 November 2021)**, Irene Khan, Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression, published the essay collection **"#JournalistsToo – Women Journalists Speak Out"**, which chronicles the personal experiences of harassment by eleven journalists from ten countries. The publication is supported by UNESCO and the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council.

In stark language, the journalists describe the threats and attacks they endure – simply for being women, for doing their work, for revealing the truth and daring to speak up. The harassment and attacks range from defamation and disinformation campaigns, gendered hate-speech, trolling to rape and death threats, smear campaigns and threats against their family members. The stories show how gender-based violence intersects with racism, homophobia, and other forms of discrimination.

Find the complete essay collection on the link below.

[Link](#)



# Think Critically, Click Wisely! Media and Information Literate Citizens



As the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated all too clearly, access to reliable and fact-based information is crucial for making potentially lifesaving decisions and participating in all areas of society. It is a critical pillar of democracy and central to our ability to address every major issue we face, whether it be climate change, migration, conflict and poverty.

As such, it must be treated as a public good, in the same way as the water we drink and the air we breathe. The pandemic has been marked by widespread misinformation and rumours, especially through social media, that many, including the United Nations Secretary-General, have termed an 'infodemic'.

The present curriculum for educators and learners is meant to address some of these challenges.

[Read more](#)

## Windhoek 30+ declaration on press freedom



On WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY 2021, the world of press freedom again gathered in Windhoek, Namibia, just like 20 years earlier where the World Press Freedom Day was instituted and the first of a series of regional Press Freedom Declarations set the standards for the section.

Find the WINDHOEK 30+ declaration – of 2021 - here:

[Declaration](#)

## The routledge encyclopedia of citizen media



The publisher writes:

"Citizen Media is a fast-evolving terrain that cuts across a variety of disciplines. It explores the physical artefacts, digital content, performative interventions,

practices and discursive expressions of affective sociality that ordinary citizens produce as they participate in public life to effect aesthetic or socio-political change. The seventy-five entries featured in this pioneering resource provide a rigorous overview of extant scholarship, deliver a robust critique of key research themes and anticipate new directions for research on a variety of topics. Cross-references and recommended reading suggestions are included at the end of each entry to allow scholars from different disciplinary backgrounds to identify relevant connections across diverse areas of citizen media scholarship and explore further avenues of research.”

Mona Baker, Bolette Blaagaard, Henry Jones

(eds.): **The Routledge encyclopedia of citizen media.**

London; New York: Routledge, 2021, xxviii, 611 p.

[More](#)

## **New report produced by MDI examines antisemitic narratives in anti-vax discourse**



## Antisemitism and anti-vax discourse in Europe

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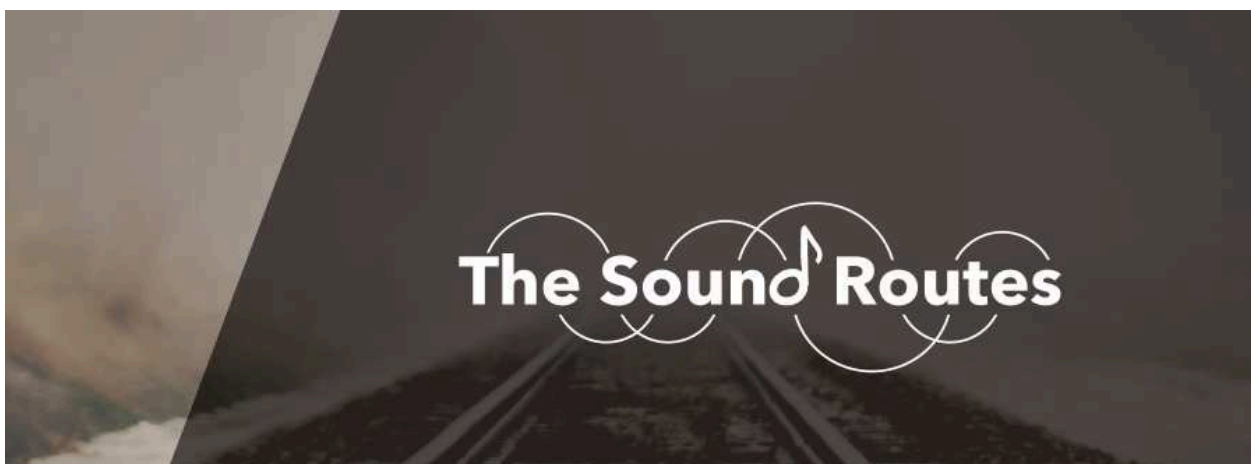
A report on conspiracy  
ideologies and anti-Jewish  
hatred on Facebook  
and Twitter

Media Diversity Institute as part of *Get The Trolls Out!* (GTTO) and in collaboration GTTO partners Amadeu Antonio Stiftung, Center for Independent Journalism, European Network on Religion and Belief, European Union of Jewish Students, Karpos, LICRA and 'NEVER AGAIN' Association produced a new report which looks into conspiracy ideologies and anti-Jewish hatred on Facebook and Twitter.

[Link](#)

## Other

## The Sound Routes project



As the project Sound Routes approaches its end, and as part of the activities to promote the artists involved in the project, we are delighted to officially release the Sound Routes CD with music and interviews of the refugees/migrants musicians involved.

[More info](#)

Rue de la Linière 11, Bruxelles  
Belgium

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